

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Bacontown Survey Number: AA-2082

Project: CDBG Bacontown Sewer Installation (9203650) Agency: Anne Arundel County

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Bacontown, a small African-American community in northwestern Anne Arundel County, traces its origins to Maria Bacon, a freed slave of the prominent Dorsey family. The town consists of several houses (mostly 20th century), a church, a church hall and cemetery, all clustered along Whiskey Bottom Road. In 1860, Achsah Dorsey manumitted Maria Bacon, a mulatto, and her four children and gave her property upon which Maria built a house. This became the nucleus of the Bacontown community.

The Henson House, St. Jacob's lodge and cemetery and Mt. Zion Church are eligible for the National Register under criterion A because they possess symbolic historical significance as a grouping of structures that represent the development of African-American communities in Anne Arundel County. The remaining structures in Bacontown are modern and therefore non-contributing. As a collection, these buildings hold local significance in the history of African-Americans in Anne Arundel County. Bacontown represents one of a handful of free-black communities which have survived and maintained their identity.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files and Maryland Inventory files

Prepared by: Donna M. Ware, Anne Arundel County

J. Ellen Fouse 12/17/92
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

R. D. [Signature] 12-26-93
Reviewer, NR program Date

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Survey No. AA-2082

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☒ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☒ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence
☐ Settlement
☐ Political
☐ Demographic
☐ Religion
☐ Technology
☐ Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☒ Agriculture
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☒ Religion
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source: None

AA-2082

